



4 November 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: West Maui (Hahakea, Honolua, Honokahua, Mokupea, and Honokowai) Ecosystem Restoration Projects, Maui, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The West Maui project areas include the Hahakea, Honolua, Honokahua, Mokupea, and Honokowai drainages on the island of Maui. The five Ecosystem Restoration Projects are currently in the reconnaissance phase. The studies are authorized under Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Water Resource Development Act, 1996, as amended. The local sponsor is the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources and represented by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. The letter of request for investigation was issued to the Honolulu District in February 2002. Important stakeholders are the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership and West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District that include public and private landowners and managers in the County of Maui who are working together to protect the 52,940-acre watershed. The County of Maui was asked to participate in the development of this project.

b. An initial reconnaissance report was submitted under the West Maui Watershed Restoration Project to the intermediate command, Pacific Ocean Division (POD) in October 2002. However, since the West Maui area consists of separate drainage areas, the POD's advice was that the District should provide reconnaissance-level recommendations on each of the proposed drainage areas. Hahakea, Honolua, Honokahua, Mokupea, and Honokowai drainage areas were identified by the local sponsor and stakeholders as priorities for restoration in the West Maui area.

c. The purpose of the Ecosystem Restoration projects is to restore degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes to a less degraded and more natural condition. The major features that will be evaluated includes eradicating/controlling of alien animal and vegetation, restoring native forests to improve ground water infiltration and to encourage restoration of native wildlife, riparian habitat, aquatic migration routes, and wetlands, and controlling erosion using structural measures and native plant revegetation. The reconnaissance studies are expected to be completed in early FY04.

3. Congressional Interest. There is minimal Congressional interest in these projects at this time.